GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3047
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2016
Role of DoT in Digital India
Sreeramulu Shri B.

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) plays a significant role in creating changes to the digital environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether DoT is equipped to respond to Digital India objectives and the technological advancements; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the action taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) to (d) National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) project, being administered by Department of Telecommunication, is one of the pillars of Digital India programme. It aims at providing broadband infrastructure and at least 100Mbps internet bandwidth to all the Gram Panchayats (approximately 2.5 lakh) in the country through Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) utilizing existing fibres of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) viz. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) and RailTel and laying incremental fiber wherever necessary to bridge the connectivity gap between Gram Panchayats (GPs) and Blocks for providing broadband connectivity. The project is being executed by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), namely, Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), which has been incorporated on 25.02.2012 under Indian Companies Act 1956. Under this project, at least 100 Mbps bandwidth has to be provided in all the estimated 2.5 lakh GPs for utilization by all categories of service providers on non-discriminatory basis including Internet Service Providers. These access providers/service providers like mobile operators, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), cable TV operators, content providers can launch various services in rural areas. Various applications for e-health, e-education, e-governance etc. can be provided. First phase of NOFN project to connect one lakh GPs with OFC to provide broadband connectivity in 1 Lakh Gram Panchayats are targeted for completion by December 2016. Department of Telecommunications is equipped to meet the deliverables under Digital India programme. As on 13.03.2016, the status of implementation of NOFN is as under:-

No. of GPs where OFC laying is completed: 42,892GPs
OFC laid: 1,00780Kms
Pipe laid : 1,28,413 Kms.
GPs Lit : 5,482